"'I have no reason (says Davies, p. 412) to suppose that infanticide existed amongst the aborigines in their former wild state; there is little doubt, however, but that it was common of later years, driven to it, as they in all probability were, by the continued harassing of the whites,...dogs became extremely valuable to them, that the females have been known to desert their infants for the sake of suckling the puppies.' Laplace's words are very similar (II. ch. xviii. pp. 201-202): 'The women are only too happy if... the little beings, who owe to them their birth, are not snatched from their arms; for, in the times of dearth, to which, through a too dry or too wet year, these savages, who are completely destitute of foresight, are exposed, it frequently happens that the children are abandoned in the middle of the woods, because their father dreads hunger, or prefers to keep the dog which aids him in hunting down the game.'"

1: Roth--167-168 (No date) 1890 Tasmanians
116, 847

"Chas. Meredith (pp. 201-202) attributes infanticide to somewhat different causes: 'The disappearance of all the young children among the natives compels us to the inference that they were destroyed, doubtless on account of the difficulty of conveying them about in the rapid flights from place to place which the blacks now practised in the perpetration of their murders. No white people ever found or killed any children that I am aware of, (1) and few after this time were seen with the tribes; the dreadful conclusion seems therefore unavoidable.' Leigh (p. 243), without stating that infanticide existed, says: 'They are careful not to increase their number greatly. To prevent this they have been known to sell their female children.' But Dove's words are more positive (I. p. 252): 'The force of the parental instinct was usually strong enough to render the maintenance of their offspring a care and a delight. [168] Instances, however, have occurred in which the child has been wantonly sacrificed to the dread of famine.'"

"1. Aboriginal children were killed by the Europeans--see p. 87, and p. 170."

"According to Calder (Journ. pp. 13-14), 'The decadence [of the race] cannot be traced to infanticide, at any rate of children of their own blood, of whom the mother was passionately fond; though it seems possible that the peculiar exigencies of their state may have sometimes produced a forced, but certainly most unwilling, abandonment of them. Instances of infanticide did, indeed, come within Robinson's knowledge; but then the victims were half-castes, whom the savage woman both of Australia and Tasmania is known generally to have hated. In the cases in question, a mother suffocated two of her offspring by thrusting grass into their mouths till they died.'

To Robinson's testimony we must add that of West (II. pp. 80-81): 'The half-caste children were oftener destroyed. A woman, who had immolated an infant of mixed origin, excused herself by saying it was not a pretty baby; this was, however, far from universal, and more commonly the act of the tribe than the mother. A native woman, who had an infant of this class, fell accidentally into the hands of her tribe; they tore the child from her arms, and threw it into the flames. The mother instantly snatched it from death, and quick as lightning dashed into the bush, where she concealed herself until she made her escape.' (1)"

"1. Davies believed the women suckled the children for upwards of two years."